THE Sleeping Beauty COLORING BOOK





Once upon a time there was a King who lived in a faroff castle. Although he had no children, the King wanted one very much.

At last a daughter was born, and the overjoyed King invited everybody to a great feast. Six good fairies came, bringing the tiny Princess gifts of health, beauty, and happiness.



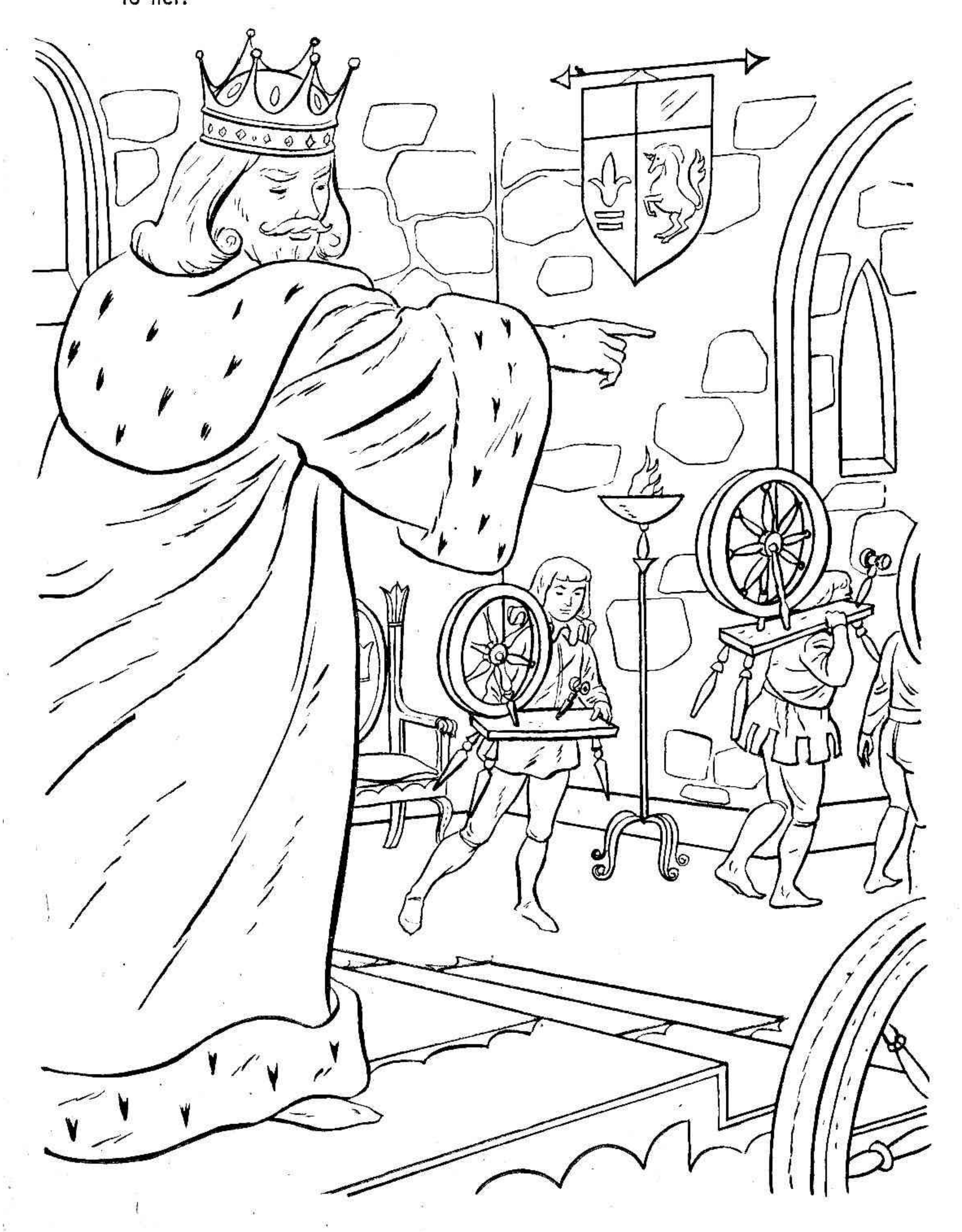
Suddenly a wicked fairy appeared. Angry because nobody had invited her, she said, "Here is my gift; when the Princess is sixteen, she will prick her finger on a spindle, and die."



But there was still one good fairy left. "I can't stop the Princess from pricking her finger," said she, "but I can wish this; the Princess shall not die; instead, she shall sleep for a hundred years."



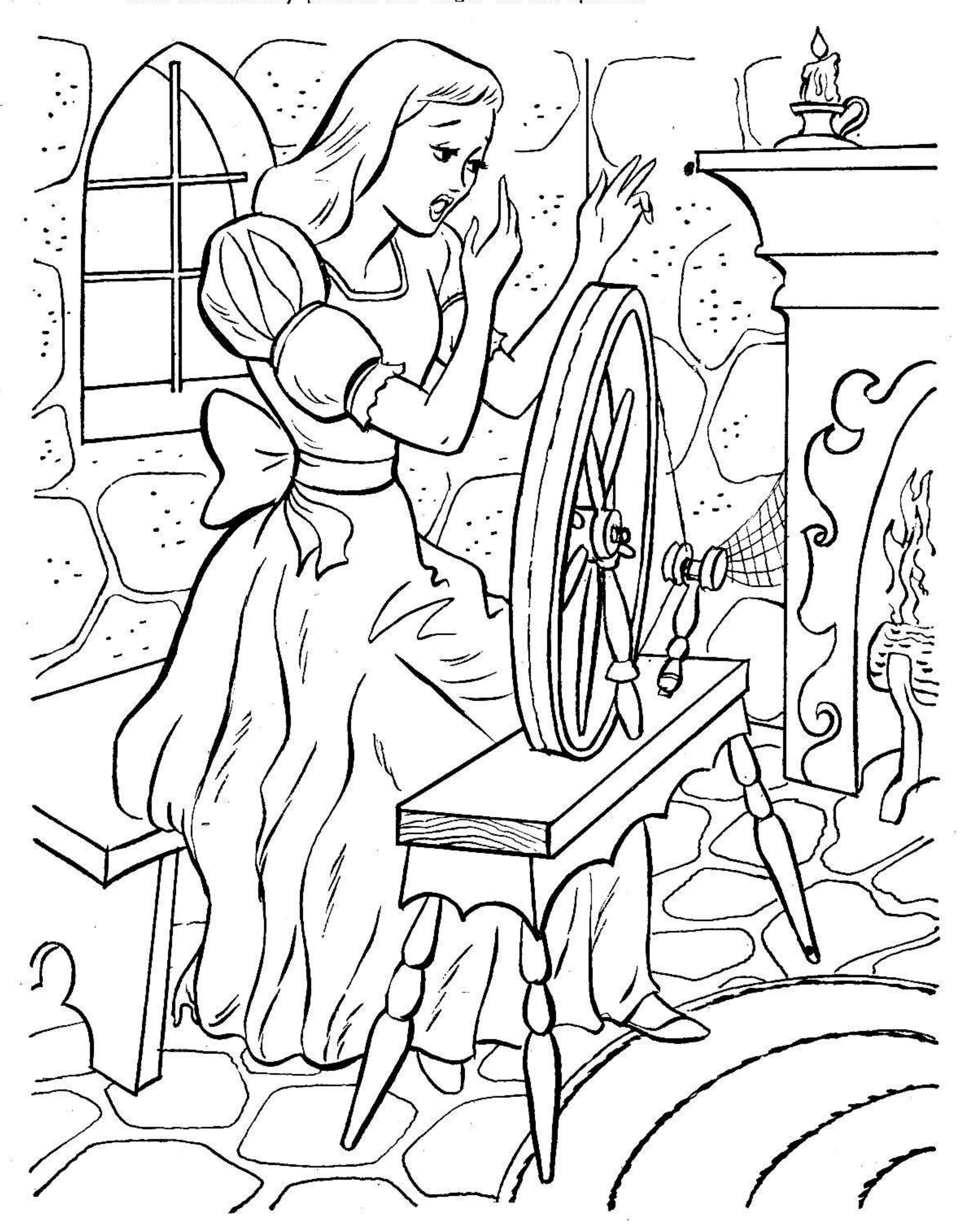
The King banished all spinning wheels from the castle. His loyal subjects obeyed, for they loved the little Princess, and wanted no harm to come to her.

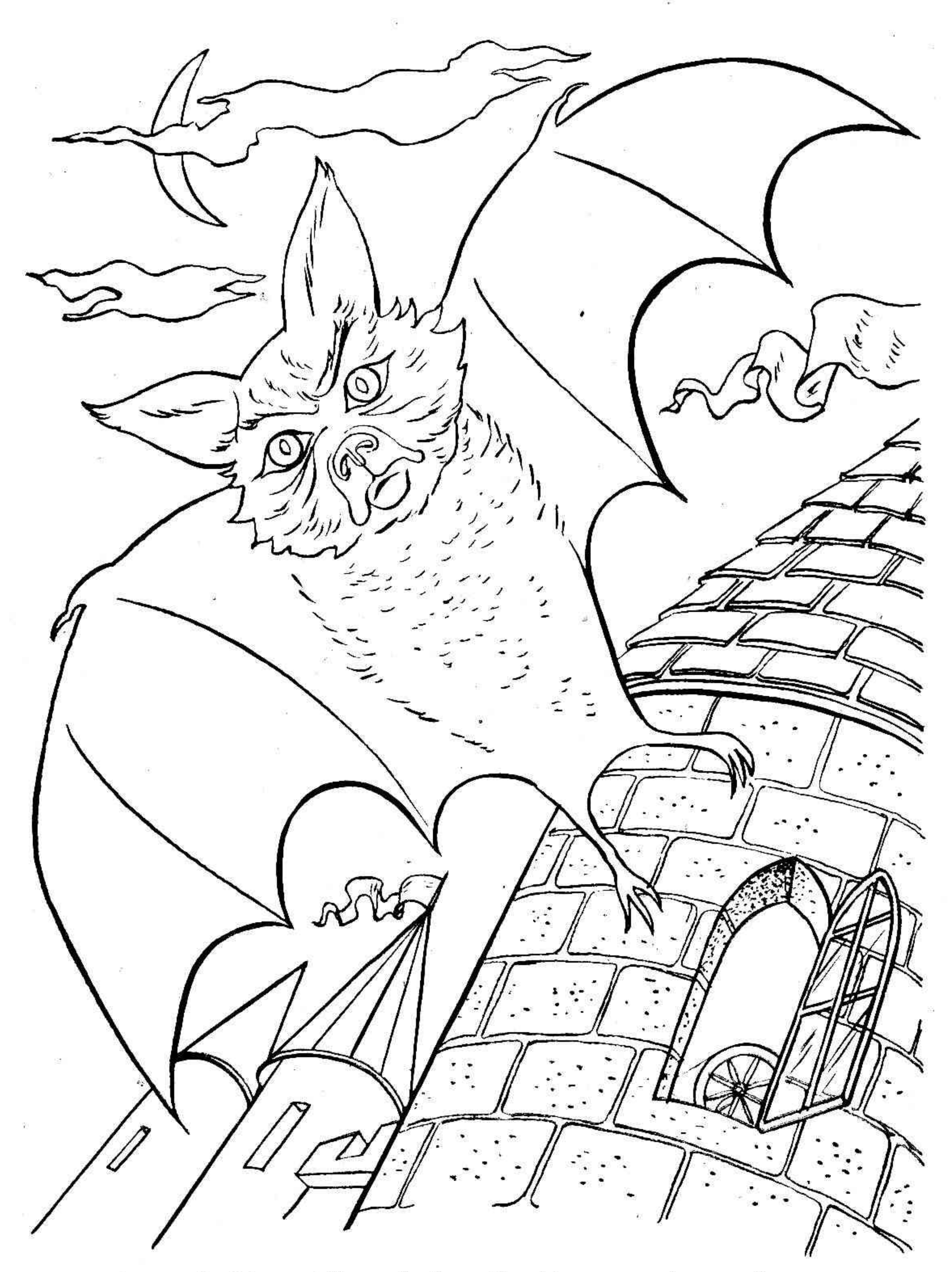




The Princess grew up to be beautiful and wise, modest and kind — the loveliest child in the kingdom.

On her sixteenth birthday, the Princess explored the castle. In a tiny tower room sat an old woman at a spinning wheel. "Why don't you try it, my dear?" said the old woman. The Princess sat down at the spinning wheel, and immediately pricked her finger on the spindle.

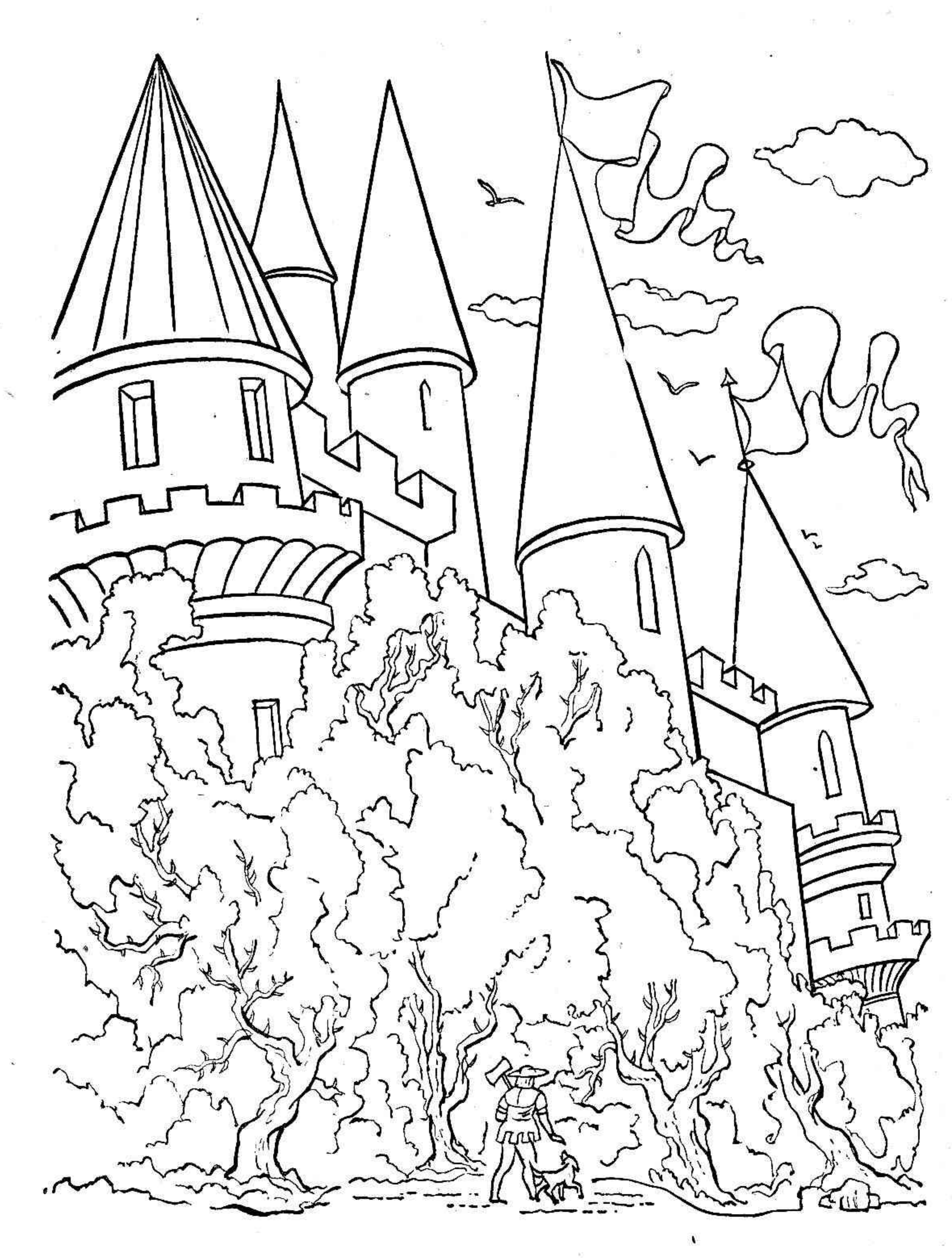




At once the Princess fell sound asleep. The old woman, who was of course the wicked fairy, turned into a bat and flew out the tower window.



At that instant, the whole castle fell asleep—the King and Queen on their throne, the guards in the courtyard, the horses and grooms in the stable, the cooks and scullery maids in the kitchen.



A tall rose hedge sprang up around the sleeping castle; its thorns were so long and sharp nobody could force his way through.



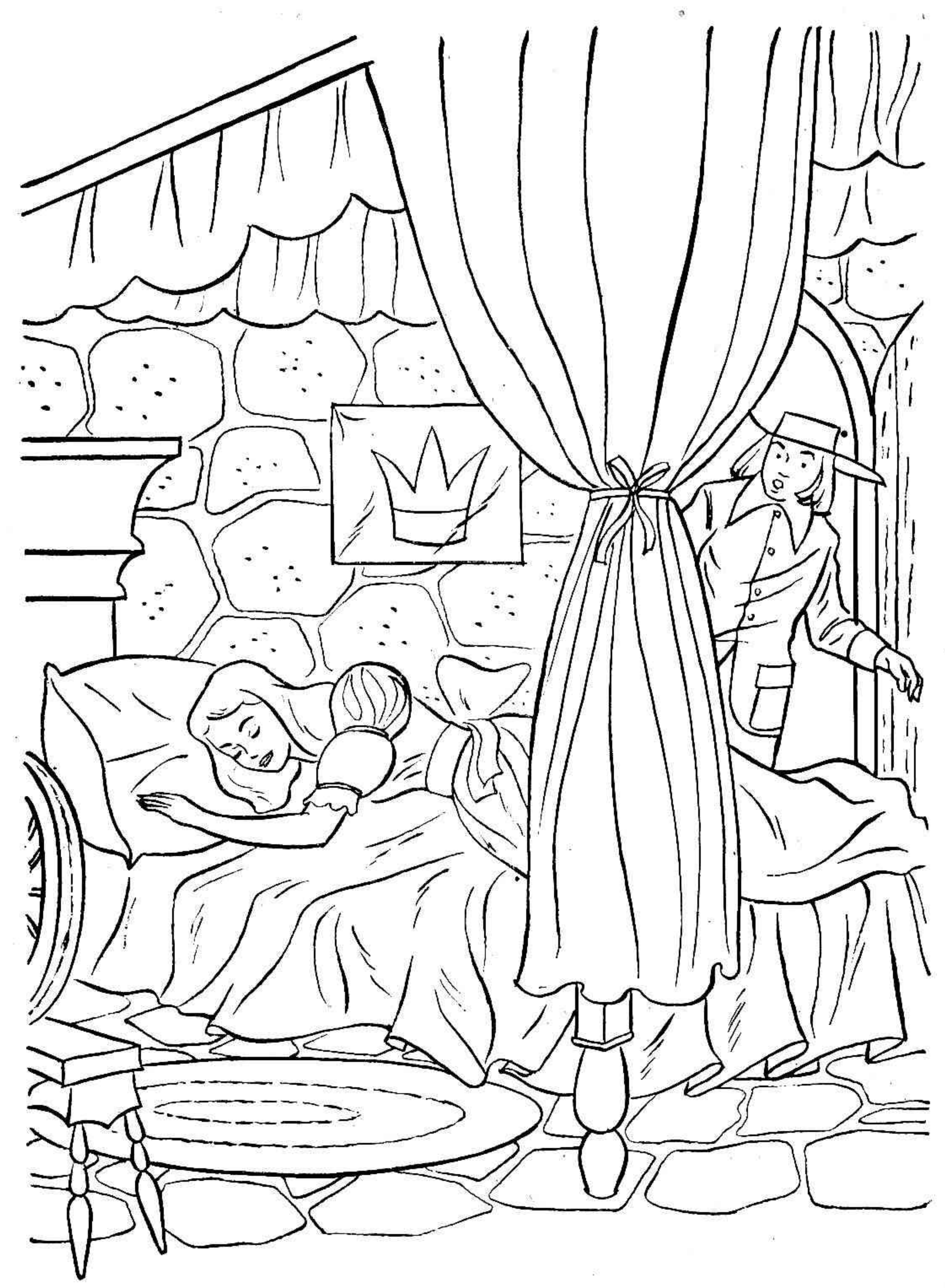
A hundred years passed, and people almost forgot the sleeping castle. One day a young Prince came riding by. He looked at the tall hedge, and wondered what was on the other side.

A passing shepherd told the Prince the strange story, which he had heard from his grandfather. Spurring his horse, the Prince made a tremendous leap, and landed safely in the castle courtyard.



The Prince stared amazed at the scene before him. Trees and bushes had grown up everywhere. The guards slept at their posts; even the cats slept, near the mice they had been chasing.





The Prince walked slowly through the quiet castle. In the little room at the top of the tower, he found the sleeping Princess.

Struck by her beauty, the Prince bent and kissed her lips. The Princess awoke and smiled up at him. At that moment, the whole castle came to life.

The King and Queen welcomed their gallant rescuer, and offered him the hand of the Princess in marriage. The Prince and the Princess were married very soon, and lived happily ever after.





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